

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste



Captain Jeff DeVere
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: May 9, 2006
Contact: Trooper J.J. Gundermann, Tacoma
(253) 536-4386 – office
(253) 606-1796 – cell/pager

Motorcycle Collision Critically Injures Two In Pierce County

Motorcycle collision critically injures husband and wife on SR 7 at SR 507 closing the southbound lanes of SR 7 for two and a half hours. Troopers believe speed and alcohol were a factor in this preventable collision.

The May 9th incident occurred approximately 6:55 p.m. when the State Patrol began to receive reports of a serious injury motorcycle collision southbound SR 7 at SR 507. Witnesses advise the 2006 Harley Davidson Road King driven by 46 year-old Otto Dwayne Holtz of Spanaway, was driving at a high rate of speed and was in and out of traffic. The roadway has a slight curve to the left at the intersection of SR 7 and SR 507 where the motorcycle failed to make the curve and went off the roadway striking a guardrail. 41 year-old Sandra Holtz was on the backseat and was thrown 84 feet from the guardrail. She sustained critical injuries and was transported to Madigan Army Hospital. Otto Holtz also sustained critical injuries and was transported to Tacoma General Hospital. Both riders were wearing helmets that were not Department of Transportation (DOT) approved as required by law. Investigators believe Otto Holtz may have been impaired at the time of the collision and he may face charges of Vehicular Assault.

With the weather getting warmer more motorcycles are on the road. The public should be reminded that motorcycles can be a safe mode of transportation when the proper gear is worn and traffic laws are obeyed. Analysis of data shows that approximately 60% of motorcycle fatalities are single-vehicle incidents, with the most common causes being excessive speed, impaired driving, and inability to stay in the lane. Approximately 40% of motorcyclist killed are under the influence.